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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
December 16, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am appealing the determination to close the Alvord Post Office in Alvord, Iowa. The post office is an integral part of the community. Its closure would be tantamount to the removal of a limb for a human being. Life would not end, but it would be subject to many stressors and severe inconveniences. Just as the loss of a limb often causes depression and drastic adjustment, so would the loss of the post office. I myself would most likely have to resort to using more e-mail to communicate, thus inadvertently diminishing the financial basis for the post office.

I consider the post office an essential part of the American scene. I have traveled in many states and have sought out post offices in some very remote areas. I have seen post offices that were only open in the summer, but most were open year round. Because of this, it is hard to understand why the hours cannot be adjusted.


According to the "Final Determination to Close the Alvord, IA Post Office and Continue to Provide Service by Rural Route Service" the rural carrier would have an immense amount of work added to the usual tasks if the postal patrons try to actually use the system that was stated wherein rural carriers provide all the features of a physical post office. Today I mailed a package at the Alvord IA Post Office. The package was weighed and a rate determined by the choice of delivery service. For many years I lived in the country and received mail via rural route carrier. I bought stamps and mailed packages at the local post office. In all the publicity that the post office has done in recent years, the only time I have heard that the rural carrier provides all the services of the local post office is when there is a proposal to close that local post office.

Regarding post office advertising—I'm not against it per se, but I find it incongruous that in recent years the United States Post Office was named as a sponsor of a major or national event, when no mention was made of the type of services the post office provides or how to go about getting those services. I think the ads noting the use of prepaid postal mailing boxes were very effective, since they gave actual information about a service. That was a good use of advertising.

In reviewing the "advantages" of the proposal (page 9), I would note that customers currently have 24-hour access to their mail (#2); the postal boxes currently within the post office are locked and therefore secure (#4); customers with only a post office box do not pay a fee (#5). All of these are already within the current system, not new advantages. The saving of time and energy noted in #6 will not happen because the customers will have to walk or drive to the CBU site in all kinds of weather (wind, snow, sleet, rain, etc.) without protection from the elements. In summary, at least four of the six items are not a change, and one is inaccurate and/or a disadvantage.

Please keep the Alvord IA Post Office open, as it provides an essential service to the community.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Hein